

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-06 INR-05  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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STADIS/////////  
LIMDIS - FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: THEBAINE AVAILABILITY FOR POTENTIAL  
IMPORT INTO THE US

1. THE UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION,  
ON APPLICATION BY CERTAIN AMERICAN PHARMACUTICAL MANUFAC-  
TURING FIRMS, HAS PROPOSED THE AUTHORIZATION TO THEM OF  
PERMISSION TO CULTIVATE THE BRACTEATUM POPPY IN THE UNITED  
STATES AND THE PRODUCTION OF THEBAINE FROM IT. PUBLIC  
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HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSAL WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH  
15, 16, AND 17 BEFORE AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE. MS.  
MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND  
COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS, TESTIFIED  
IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL BOTH ON GENERAL FOREIGN  
RELATIONS GROUNDS AND ON THE BASIS THAT ITS APPROVAL WOULD  
MAKE MORE DIFFICULT OUR RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES PARTI-

CULARLY IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

2. THE DEA PROPOSAL WAS DEVELOPED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THERE WAS A SHORT SUPPLY OF CODEINE. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT OUTLOOK IS FOR FULLY ADEQUATE CODEINE SUPPLIES TO MEET EXPECTED LEGITIMATE PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS. NEVERTHELESS

ONE APPLICANT COMPANY HAS NOW SUBMITTED THAT THERE IS A PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE SHORTAGE OF THEBAINE NEEDED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CERTAIN HIGHLY SPECIALIZED DRUGS NOW AT THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE.

3. THERE IS NOW NO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF THEBAINE FROM THE BRACTEATUM POPPY ALTHOUGH THERE IS EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTION UNDERWAY IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES. RATHER, THEBAINE IS PRODUCED AS A BY-PRODUCT WHEN MORPHINE IS EXTRACTED FROM OPIUM GUM. IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1975, THE LAST CALENDAR YEAR FOR WHICH STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE, 3019 KILOGRAMS OF THEBAINE WERE SO PRODUCED. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION

AVAILABLE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, DURING 1975 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS OF THEBAINE (IN KILOGRAMS) WERE PRODUCED IN THE COUNTRIES INDICATED AND ALL OR NEARLY ALL OF IT WAS CONVERTED INTO CODEINE. FRANCE, 2839; FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 45; JAPAN, 387; ITALY, 789; BELGIUM, 67; NORWAY 47. IN THE UK 1774 KILOS OF THEBAINE WERE MOSTLY CONVERTED INTO HYDROCODONE.

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4. THE DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN DETERMINING ON AN URGENT BASIS THE PROBABLE EXTENT TO WHICH THEBAINE NOW PRODUCED IN THESE OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES IF US PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS SOUGHT TO PURCHASE IT AND IMPORT IT. THE REPLY SHOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE EXPORT OF THEBAINE FROM THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED. IN CASES WHERE IT MAY BE INDICATED THAT THE THEBAINE IS NEEDED LOCALLY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CODEINE, INQUIRY SHOULD BE MADE AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF AGREEMENT TO AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AN AMERICAN FIRM WOULD EXCHANGE CODEINE FOR THEBAINE. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT, ASIDE FROM

ANY TRADE BARRIERS, THE QUESTION OF PRICE WOULD STRONGLY DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH ANY TRADE TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, FOR THE PRESENT INQUIRY WE WOULD LIKE TO PUT THAT QUESTION ASIDE AND JUST OBTAIN THE BEST INDICATION AVAILABLE AS TO WHETHER YOUR HOST COUNTRY COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF THEBAINE IMPORT TO THE UNITED

STATES SHOULD, INDEED, ANTICIPATED DOMESTIC AVAILABILITIES  
HERE NOT MEET ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS.

5. SHOULD, IN THE COURSE OF YOUR DISCREET INQUIRIES,  
ANY INDICATION BE GIVEN THAT THE HOST COUNTRY HAS THE  
INTENTION OF ENTERING COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF THE BRAC-  
TEATUM POPPY (FOR EITHER THEBAINE OR FOR CONVERSION TO  
CODEINE) THIS WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW.

6. PLEASE SEND REPLY WITH THE BEST INFO YOU CAN OBTAIN  
TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30.

7. PLEASE SEND REPLIES BY STADIS/LIMDIS CHANNEL.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURE, IMPORTS, DRUGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PLANTS (FLORA)  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** DHERNST:AM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SNM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS, LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**To:** PARIS BONN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ce9c61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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